

REMARKS

The pending final Office Action addresses and rejects claims 1-4 and 6-33.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 22, and 29 are amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Since the amendments only add features found in previously presented dependent claims, no new matter is added and entry of the amendments after final is respectfully requested. Applicants also amend claims 7 and 8 to correct their dependencies.

Claim Objections

Claims 7 and 8 are objected to for depending on a canceled claim. As noted above, claims 7 and 8 are amended to correct this informality.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

(1) Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 21-24, and 28-30

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 21-23, and 28-30 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,928,693 of Goodin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,573,007 of Bobo Sr.

As noted above, independent claims 1, 22, and 29 recite a catheter having a plurality of fluid-entry ports formed in the sidewall and in communication with the first lumen. Goodin does not teach or even suggest a plurality of fluid-entry ports formed in the sidewall of a catheter and in fluid communication with a first lumen, and Bobo does not remedy this deficiency of Goodin. Goodin teaches a tubular member 12 that includes a single guidewire port 22 that communicates with the first lumen 18. This port 22 is solely used to accommodate the guidewire, and is not involved in delivering fluid into or out of the lumen 18. Bobo likewise fails to teach a catheter having a plurality of fluid entry ports. Bobo merely discloses a single-lumen that is sealed to retain a gas therein. Regardless, no person having ordinary skill in the art would modify Goodin to include more than one port since additional ports would be completely unnecessary.

Claims 1, 22, and 29, and claims 4, 6, 9-10, 21, 23, 24, and 28-30 which depend therefrom, therefore distinguish over Goodin and Bobo and represents allowable subject matter.

(2) Claims 7, 8, 11-20, 25-27, 31-33

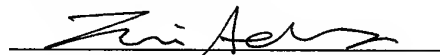
Claims 7, 8, 11-20, 25-27, and 31-33 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Goodin in view of various references set forth in the Office Action. The Examiner relies on these references to teach various features recited in the dependent claims and not taught by Goodin. As indicated above, Goodin does not teach a catheter having a plurality of fluid-entry ports formed in the sidewall of a catheter that are in fluid communication with a lumen. The various secondary references cited by the Examiner do not remedy these deficiencies of Goodin. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 11-20, 25-27, and 31-33 distinguish over Goodin and the various secondary references and represent allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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